

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4549

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1017

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR EUR/ARMITAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

REF: MADRID 7949

1. AS WE HAD JUST RECEIVED SOME INDICATIONS FROM PERINAT IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT NOT BE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD THE RENEWAL OF THE RADIO LIBERTY CONTRACT BECAUSE OF SPANISH PLANS TO NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, I TOOK THE OCCASION OF MY CALL ON AREILZA THIS MORNING TO RAISE RADIO LIBERTY AND STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS FACILITY. I ALSO TOLD HIM OF THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVED FROM THE FRG ON THE RADIO LIBERTY OPERATION AND MENTIONED THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE INSTALLATION AT PALS. I SAID THAT THE MATTER TOOK ON URGENCY AS THE CONTRACT WAS DUE TO EXPIRE NEXT MONTH.

2. AREILZA SAID THAT, AS HE HAD ALREADY TOLD THE SECRETARY, SPAIN IS INTERESTED IN NORMALIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. HE INQUIRED WHAT OUR VIEW WAS WITH RESPECT TO THE FUTURE CONTRACT. I SAID THAT WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO RENEGOTIATE IT IF POSSIBLE FOR ANOTHER PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS, BUT THAT IF THIS PRESENTED DIFFI-
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CULTIES FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME, IT

MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER A SIMPLE EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT FOR A SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME.

3. AREILZA PROMISED ME THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE QUESTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND HE DID NOT SEEM NEGATIVE ABOUT THE IDEA OF AN EXTENSION.

4. COMMENT: I DID NOT MENTION A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT SINCE IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IT MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED FOR A PERIOD LONGER THAN A YEAR. HOWEVER, I DID WANT TO LEAVE WITH HIM THE THOUGHT THAT AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT CONTRACT MIGHT BE AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO A FULL-SCALE RENEGOTIATION. I HAVE ALSO MENTIONED THE RADIO LIBERTY QUESTION IN GENERAL TERMS TO THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHO TOOK UP HIS ASSIGNMENT FEBRUARY 9.
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